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M15 Chief May Have Been Spy

LONDON (AP) - The director-general of Britain's M15 counter-intelligence agency from 1956 to 1965 was suspected of being a Soviet spy but he died before the investigation was completed, the Daily Mail newspaper reported today.

The Defense Ministry declined comment on the report on former agency chief Sir Roger Hollis who died in 1973.

Daily Mail correspondent Chapman Pincher wrote that Hollis, head of the agency responsible for counter-espionage and domestic security, "may have been the most damaging spy in history." Pincher offered no direct attribution for his report but repeatedly referred to "loyal M15 officers" throughout the four-page article in the Daily Mail, a newspaper that generally supports the ruling Conservative Party.

His article said that soon after he retired, Hollis faced an "unprecedented interrogation covering the 30 years during which he stood either near or at the top of this country's security forces."

It said that during the interrogation, Hollis' "answers to questions were regarded as unsatisfactory."

"I have established that loyal M15 officers who uncovered the evidence that led to Sir Roger's dramatic interrogation believed that the Russians penetrated the security and intelligence services so deeply and for so long that they not only neutralized them, but effectively ran them," the reporter wrote.